

REMARKS

Claim objections 35 USC § 101

Claim 19 has been amended to specify that the computer program product comprises machine-readable instructions which when executed in a computer cause the computer to perform the specified method. The product is therefore tangibly embodied in a manner so as to be executable.

Claim rejections 35 USC § 102

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the former features of claim 3. The Examiner had alleged that claim 3, when dependent on claim 1, was anticipated by Page et al., making particular reference to Figs. 4 and 5 of Page et al., but it is submitted that Page et al. does not disclose or suggest the features of amended claim 1 (i.e. former claims 1 and 3 in combination).

Amended claim 1 requires (i) that the directory must support a hierarchical structure, and furthermore, requires (ii) that each stored data component is associated with a respective position in the hierarchical data structure.

Fig. 4 of Page et al. shows an architecture of a directory server that employs plug-ins, and which is used to communicate with members of a multicast group. There is no suggestion in Fig. 4 or its accompanying description that a hierarchical structure is present in this directory.

Fig. 5 illustrates the internal architecture of the preferred directory proxy in more detail. Again, nothing suggests or teaches a hierarchical structure.

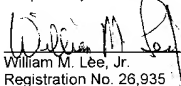
Similarly, nothing in either Fig. 4 or Fig. 5 suggests in any way that each stored data component in a directory is associated with a respective position in a hierarchical data structure.

Similar arguments apply to claim 18. The remaining claims are dependent claims, and are thus considered to be allowable for the same reasons.

In view of the amendments and arguments made herein, the applicants respectfully request the examiner withdraw the rejections, and allow the application.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William M. Lee, Jr.", is written over a horizontal line.

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